

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a search query comprising a first search term from a user;
receiving a first user search attribute and a second user search attribute from a user
profile associated with the user;
deriving a second search term from the first user search attribute; and
processing the search query based on the second search term to generate a processed
search query;
receiving a search result generated in response to the processed search query;
modifying the search result based on the second user search attribute to generate a
modified search result; and
returning the modified search result to the user.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the search query comprises
modifying the search query to include the second search term.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~processing the search query~~
modifying the search result comprises processing ~~[[a]]~~ the search result based on the second
search term.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein ~~processing~~ modifying the
search result comprises sorting the search result based on the second user search attribute.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the search query comprises an implicit search query.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the search query comprises an explicit search query.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the search query comprises replacing the first search term with the second search term.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the search query comprises adding the second search term to the ~~implicit~~ search query.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the processed search query to a search engine, the search engine associated with an index.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the index comprises a local index.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the index comprises a global index.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving a search result comprises ~~further comprising~~ receiving a result set from the search engine, the result set comprising a plurality of article identifiers.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein modifying the search result comprises ~~further comprising~~ ranking the plurality of article identifiers based at least in part on the second user search attribute.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding the first search term to the user profile.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the user ~~associated with the user profile~~ based in part on a user activity.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the user activity comprises at least one of a typing pattern and a mouse movement.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user profile comprises a data store.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the data store comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of a file and a database.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user search attribute comprises a category.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second user search attribute comprises a user preference.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user search attribute comprises a user activity.
22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a search query comprising a first search term from a user;
receiving a first user search attribute and a second user search attribute from a user profile associated with the user; ~~and~~
processing the search query based on the first user search attribute to generate a processed search query;
receiving a search result generated in response to the processed search query;

modifying the search result based on the second user search attribute to generate a modified search result; and
returning the modified search result to the user.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the first user search attribute identifies a level of interest in a category.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising ~~marking the user-search engine for identification by the search engine~~ transmitting the processed search query to a search engine, the search engine associated with an index.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable tangible medium on which is encoded program code, the program code comprising:

program code for receiving a search query comprising a first search term from a user;

program code for receiving a first user search attribute and a second user search attribute from a user profile associated with the user;

program code for deriving a second search term from the first user search attribute;

and

program code for processing the search query based on the second search term to generate a processed search query;

program code for receiving a search result generated in response to the processed search query;

program code for modifying the search result based on the second user search attribute to generate a modified search result; and

program code for returning the modified search result to the user.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, wherein program code for processing the search query comprises program code for replacing the first search term with the second search term.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, wherein program code for processing the search query comprises program code for adding the second search term to the ~~implicit~~ search query.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, further comprising program code for transmitting the processed search query to a search engine, the search engine associated with an index.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, wherein program code for receiving a search result ~~further comprising~~ comprises program code for receiving a result set from ~~the a~~ search engine, the result set comprising a plurality of article identifiers.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim ~~25~~ 29, wherein program code for modifying the search result ~~comprises further comprising~~ program code for ranking the plurality of article identifiers based at least in part on the second user search attribute.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, further comprising program code for adding the first search term to the user profile.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, further comprising program code for identifying ~~[[a]] the user associated with the user profile~~ based in part on a user activity.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, wherein program code for processing the search query comprises program code for modifying the search query to include the second search term.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 25, wherein program code for ~~processing the search query~~ modifying the search result comprises program code for processing ~~[[a]] the~~ search result based on the second search term.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim ~~34~~ 25, wherein program code for ~~processing the search result~~ modifying the search result comprises program code for sorting the search result.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable tangible medium on which is encoded program code, the program code comprising:

program code for receiving a search query comprising a first search term from a user;

program code for receiving a first user search attribute and a second user search attribute from a user profile associated with the user; and

program code for processing the search query based on the first user search attribute to generate a processed search query;

program code for receiving a search result generated in response to the processed search query;

program code for modifying the search result based on the second user search attribute to generate a modified search result; and
program code for returning the modified search result to the user.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable tangible medium of claim 36, wherein the first user search attribute identifies a level of interest in a category further comprising-
program code for marking the user search engine for identification by the search engine.

38. (New) A method comprising:

- receiving a search query comprising a first search term from a user;
- receiving a user search attribute from a user profile associated with the user;
- automatically deriving a second search term from the user search attribute without user intervention;
- processing the search query based on the second search term to generate a processed search query;
- receiving a search result generated in response to the processed search query; and
- returning the search result to the user.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein automatically deriving a second search term further comprises automatically selecting a term from the user search attribute as the second search term without user intervention.